

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/712,995
Response filed March 15, 2005
Reply to OA dated December 15, 2004

REMARKS

Claims 13-18 and 20-21 are pending in this application. Claim 19 is canceled by this amendment.

The claim amendments are supported in the specification as follows: Claim 13: (Claim 19); Claim 16: (p.4, text lines 23-24 to p.5, line1; p.8, text lines 24-25 to p.9, lines 1-7); and Claims 17-21: (Claim 13 and written in independent form).

The Applicant respectfully submits that no new matter has been added.

The Applicant appreciates the Examiner indicating on p.4 of the Office Action that Claim 17-21 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. The Applicant has rewritten the claims in independent form as suggested by the Examiner.

Claim 16 is rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. (Office Action p.2)

Claim 16 has been amended to recite positively "polymers obtained by polymerization of acrylamido compounds and/or methacrylamido compounds" and to delete the term "derivatives."

This language is almost exactly the same as Claim 4 in parent patent USP 6,710,104 which reads:

4. An organic/inorganic hybrid hydrogel according to claim 1, wherein said water soluble polymer (A) includes ***polymers obtained by polymerization of acrylamido compounds and/or methacrylamide compounds.*** (emphasis added)

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Because the language is now clear, it is believed that the rejection is addressed and overcome.

Claims 13, 15 and 16 are rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 USC 103(a) as obvious under Lorah et al. (USP 6,765,049). (Office Action p.2)

Claim 13 has been amended to incorporate the allowable subject matter of claim 19 and therefore it is asserted that this rejection has been overcome.

Claims 13-16 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) over Tsipursky et al. (USP 5,998,528) alone, or in view of Libor et al. (USP 4,600,744), Tsai et al. (USP 6,562,891) or Lorah et al. (USP 6,765,049) (Office Action, p.3)

Claim 13 has been amended to incorporate the allowable subject matter of claim 19 and therefore it is asserted that this rejection has been overcome.

In view of the aforementioned amendments and accompanying remarks, the claims, as amended, are in condition for allowance, which action, at an early date, is requested.

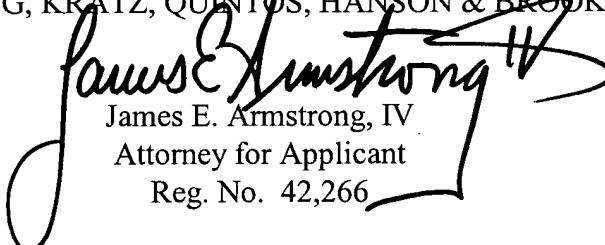
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If, for any reason, it is felt that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicant's undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

In the event that this paper is not timely filed, Applicant respectfully petitions for an appropriate extension of time. Please charge any fees for such an extension of time and any other fees which may be due with respect to this paper, to Deposit Account No. 01-2340.

Respectfully submitted,

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